## Message Text

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**ORIGIN EPA-02** 

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R 231944Z DEC 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV. MX

SUBJECT: US-MEXICAN ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO HAS PROPOSED MARCH ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM AT NUEVO LAREDO, AND INVITED EPA ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN, WHO CANNOT ATTEND. ACCORDING UNIVERSITY, GOM HOPES FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETING BETWEEN TRAIN AND SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS. ALSO EPA UNDERSTANDS EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA MAY VISIT WASHINGTON IN JANUARY, AND WOULD HOPE TO SEE TRAIN. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED PROVIDE ASSESSMENT OF GOM DESIRES AND INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

- 2. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, IN SEPTEMBER 1973 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS IN EL PASO (UTEP) SPONSORED "FIRST BINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AIR POLLUTION ALONG US-MEXICAN BORDER." ALTHOUGH PRINCIPALLY A PRIVATE ENDEAVOR, SYMPOSIUM TOOK ON CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH VISCAINO MURRAY AND EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FITZHUGH GREEN BOTH TAKING PART.
- 3. PROFESSOR HOWARD APPLEGATE OF UTEP HAS INVITED EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL TRAIN TO PARTICIPATE IN A SECOND SYMPOSIUM, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NUEVO LAREDO IN JANUARY 1975 AND RECENTLY POSTPONED TO EARLY MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(MEXICO 10500). (FYI: TRAIN WILL NOT ATTEND.) ACCORDING

## APPLEGATE, VALESCO ACAMPO OF SUBSECRETARIA DE MEJORAMIENTO

DEL AMBIENTE (SMA) TOLD APPLEGATE THAT IF TRAIN ATTENDS SYMPOSIUM EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA AND VISCAINO MURRAY WOULD ALSO ATTEND, AND WOULD WISH TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH TRAIN. ACCORDING APPLEGATE, ACAMPO ALSO INDICATED GOM WOULD PROVIDE TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH TRAIN.

- 4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA INDICATED TO OFFICIAL OF EPA'S LAS VEGAS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER THAT HE COMING TO WASHINGTON IN LAST DAYS OF JANUARY ON OTHER BUSINESS, AND WISHES TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH EPA ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN.
- 5. IN EPA'S VIEW, UTEP SYMPOSIUM IS ESSENTIALLY A LOCAL EFFORT AND DOES NOT WARRANT ATTENDANCE BY EPA ADMINISTRATOR. (EPA REGIONAL OFFICE IN DALLAS WOULD FOLLOW SYMPOSIUM CLOSELY.) STILL, ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE WITH DR. ECHEVERRIA (AND/OR MURRAY). TRAIN PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON LATE JANUARY AND WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE ECHEVERRIA THEN.
- 6. REQUEST EMBASSY ASSESS DEGREE OF GOM INTEREST IN MEETING WITH TRAIN, TAKING SOUNDINGS AT EITHER SMA OR SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, AND IN ANY EVENT, KEEPING FOREIGN RELATIONS INFORMED.
- 7. FYI: GIVEN LACK OF CONCRETE RESPONSE BY GOM TO ACTION PLAN PROPOSED AT DECEMBER 6-7, 1973, MEXICO CITY MEETINGS EPA DOUBTS CONFERENCE-TYPE MEETINGS WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO FOSTERING CONCRETE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ALONG BORDER. IF GOM IS SINCERE IN DESIRING MEETING WITH TRAIN, EPA/DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE

MEASURE OF MEXICAN INTEREST AND AGAIN ENCOURAGE MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN JOINT EFFORTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ALONG BORDER. KISSINGER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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